



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Kiran B. Patel
Applicant : Melvin J. Guiles
Art Unit : 3612
Serial No. : 10/402,462
Filing Date : March 28, 2003
For : LOW PROFILE HIGH-STRENGTH VEHICLE DOORBEAM
Docket No. : 07198.85607-001

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF MELVIN J. GUILLES UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

1. I, Melvin J. Guiles, am the sole inventor named in the above identified application. I am also an employee of Shape Corp. (SHAPE) of Grand Haven, Michigan, the Assignee of the above identified application.

2. I have been an employee of SHAPE for five (5) years, and am currently employed as Director of Technology and Advanced Engineering. As such, I am familiar with vehicle doorbeams.

3. As an employee of SHAPE, I work daily with the design and manufacture of components, such as roll-formed vehicle doorbeams.

4. I am familiar with the vehicle doorbeam constructions that are disclosed in the present application, including the construction shown in Fig. 2 having a first weld line at the lateral edges 26, 28 of the beam and a second weld line at line 32 of the beam (SHAPE DOUBLE-WELD DOORBEAM), and also including the construction shown in Fig. 2 having only the first weld line (SHAPE SINGLE-WELD DOORBEAM).

5. I have reviewed U.S. Patents 6,591,577 to Goto (GOTO); 5,934,544 to Lee (LEE); and 5,813,718 to Masuda (MASUDA); and I understand the construction of the

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doorbeam disclosed in GOTO (GOTO DOORBEAM), the beam disclosed in LEE (LEE BEAM), and the beam disclosed in MASUDA (MASUDA DOORBEAM).

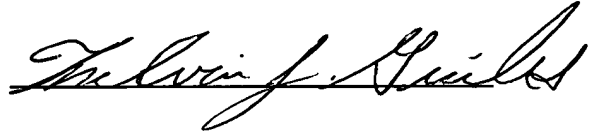
6. In view of my experience and knowledge of the design and manufacture of doorbeams, my analysis of the above noted beam constructions is that the SHAPE SINGLE-WELD DOORBEAM and the SHAPE DOUBLE-WELD DOORBEAMS are capable of being formed from higher tensile strength materials than the GOTO DOORBEAM, the LEE BEAM or the MASUDA DOORBEAM. When material thickness is held constant, it is more difficult to roll form materials of higher tensile strength than materials of lower tensile strength. The GOTO DOORBEAM, LEE BEAM and MASUDA DOORBEAM all require bending the material into tight radii that are not required by the Shape doorbeams. For example, both the GOTO DOORBEAM and the LEE BEAM require lateral portions that are bent at approximately 90 degree angles into flanges that abut the beam. The MASUDA DOORBEAM requires lateral portions that are bent at acute angles to form a triangular cross-section. Because the Shape construction does not require these tight radii, the Shape doorbeam is capable of being formed from materials of higher tensile strength than the beams disclosed Goto, Lee and Masuda.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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MELVIN J. GUILLES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melvin J. Guiles", written over a horizontal line.

Date May 25, 2005